Big Brothers Big Sisters
OF CENTRAL ARKANSAS

DEFENDERS OF POTENTIAL
ADVOCACY & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

CLASS OF 2020
APPLICATION PACKET

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF CENTRAL ARKANSAS

The mission of Big Brothers Big Sisters is to create and support one-to-one mentoring relationships that ignite the power and promise of youth. Our vision is that all youth achieve their full potential. You may already know that we call the mentors "BIGs" and the youths "LITTLEs."

For over 50 years, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arkansas (BBBSCA) has been a positive influence for youth in the Central Arkansas area. We are committed to providing quality mentors to children in our community because we believe children are full of potential. BBBSCA strives to defend that potential. We have grown to be the largest children's mentoring organization in Central Arkansas, offering the youth of our community a chance to reach their fullest potential.

PURPOSE OF THIS PROGRAM

We are a non-profit organization. In order to continue with our mission, we need both funds and quality BIG volunteers. The purpose of this program is two-fold. First, we want to help develop strong leaders in our community who understand our mission and help spread the word about our organization and mission. Second, we need help raising funds to keep our doors open.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

1. Strongly professed commitment and interest in serving Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arkansas.
2. Willingness to devote time and energy to the program in terms of attendance, volunteering, and fund-raising.
3. Willingness to spread the word about the mission and importance of the organization.
4. Willingness to help identify strong community members who would be willing to serve as BIGs.
5. Ability to connect and work with fellow program participants.

FEES

The only fee associated with participating in the program is a one-time $10 fee to help offset the cost of materials. This must be paid upon notification of acceptance into the program.

REQUIREMENTS & COMMITMENTS

Events

The Defenders program consists of the following events:

1. Initial Meet and Greet/Initiation (April 4 from 9am - 2pm)
2. Leadership Class 1 (May 9 from 9am - 2pm)
3. Leadership Class 2 (Aug 1 from 9am - 2pm)
4. Leadership Class 3 (Oct 24 from 9am - 2pm)
5. Recognition and Awards Dinner (Nov 14 from 6pm-9pm)

The Initial Meet and Greet/Initiation into the program is required. Two of the Leadership Classes are required, but we strongly encourage participants attend all three.

Fundraising

The Defenders program has three levels of fundraising goals:

1. High School Student (Academic Defender) - $500 minimum
2. Full Time College Student (Collegiate Defender) - $1,000 minimum
3. Career Professional (Professional Defender) - $1,500 minimum

The defender in each category who raises the most money will be honored with a special award.

Volunteering

We require each person to volunteer for a minimum of eight (8) hours while in the program in addition to scheduled program events. This might be with other BBBS events, office work, or special projects. We encourage participants to volunteer as much as they can; these extra hours can be counted for non-profit volunteer hours.

PERMISSION

For Academic Defenders Only

High School Juniors and Seniors who are at least 16 years of age are invited to participate as long as he/she has parent or guardian permission.

The applicant has my full permission and support, which includes the commitments and requirements outlined above.

_____

Name of High School Applicant (Please type or print)

_____

Name of Parent/Guardian (Please type or print)

_____ _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian Date

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APPLICATION FORM

Please type or print

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Last Name _____ First _____ Middle _____

Male _____ Female _____ Race (optional) _____ Age _____ T-shirt size _____

Home Street Address _____ Apt# _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Numbers (W) _____ (H) _____ (C) _____

Email _____

Emergency Contact Name and Number _____

Descriptive bio of yourself:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

List any other volunteer work or organizations you've worked with:

List any special honors or awards you've received:

INTEREST

Why do you want to participate in this program, and what do you hope to gain from it?

What is one suggestion you have for enticing more adults to serve as BIGs in the organization?

Please list leadership topics you want to learn more about.

DEFENDERS GROUP

Defenders group you are applying for (select only one):

- ☐ Academic Defender (High School Juniors and Seniors age 16+)
- ☐ Collegiate Defender (Full-Time College Students)
- ☐ Professional Defender (Career Professionals)

Complete only the section below for the defender group you've chosen.

Academic Defender

Are you a: Junior ___ Senior ___ GPA _____

High School _____ City _____

What are your plans upon graduation? _____

Did you get a parent/guardian to sign on page 2 of this packet? Yes ___ No ___

Collegiate Defender

Are you a full-time college student with at least a 12-hour course load? Yes ___ No ___

Are you a: Freshman ___ Sophomore ___ Junior ___ Senior ___ GPA _____

College _____ City _____

Major _____ Minor _____

Professional Defender

Employer _____

Position _____

Business or Professional Affiliations _____

PICTURE

Please include a picture of yourself along with this application.

PERSONAL COMMITMENT

Do you understand and commit to the requirements on page 2 of this packet? Yes ___ No ___

Do you agree to contribute a small $10 fee to cover the cost of materials if you are selected? Yes ___ No ___

If you cannot cover the fee, please explain: _____

Do you understand that you will not serve as a BIG during your time in the program? Yes ___ No ___

_____ _____

Signature Date

SUBMISSION

Please send this completed application and a photo to the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arkansas Advocacy and Leadership Development Program Committee to defenders@bbbsca.org.

Deadline for all materials to be submitted is by midnight on Friday, February 21, 2020.